

1 **WO**

2 NOT FOR PUBLICATION

3
4
5
6 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
7 FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA
8

9 James E. Pruitt,

10 Plaintiff,

11 vs.

12 Maricopa Integrated Health System; and
13 Maricopa County,

14 Defendants.
15

No. CV-08-2136-PHX-GMS

ORDER

16 Pending before the Court is the Motion for Summary Judgment filed by Defendants
17 Maricopa Integrated Health System (“MIHS”) and Maricopa County (the “County”). (Dkt.
18 # 36.) As set forth below, the Court grants the Motion.

19 **DISCUSSION**

20 The Rules of Practice of the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona (the “Local
21 Rules”) provide that a party’s failure to respond to a motion for summary judgment may, in
22 the Court’s discretion, “be deemed a consent” to the Court’s granting of judgment in favor
23 of the movant. *See* LRCiv. 7.2(i). Before granting the motion pursuant to 7.2(i), however, a
24 district court generally must warn the plaintiff of “the consequence of his failure to respond
25 to the [opposing party’s] summary judgment motion.” *See Brydges v. Lewis*, 18 F.3d 651,
26 652–53 (9th Cir.1994). Additionally, a district court abuses its discretion if it “grant[s] a
27 motion for summary judgment where the movant’s papers are insufficient to support that
28

1 motion or on their face reveal a genuine issue of material fact.” *Henry v. Gill Indus., Inc.*, 983
2 F.2d 943, 950 (9th Cir. 1993) (quotation omitted).

3 Upon examination of Defendants’ Motion, and in the absence of any Response, the
4 Court grants summary judgment in Defendants’ favor. To begin, Mr. Pruitt is in violation of
5 Local Rule 7.2(i). Though Defendants filed their Motion for Summary judgment on February
6 26, 2010, Mr. Pruitt, through his attorney Rosemary Stathakis Cook, has not filed a timely
7 Response, nor has he sought extensions of time to do so. Accordingly, on April 6, 2010, the
8 Court ordered Mr. Pruitt to file a responsive memorandum and warned him that failure to do
9 so could be deemed a consent to the granting of judgment in Defendants’ favor. (Dkt. # 39.)
10 Mr. Pruitt, however, still has not filed any Response. *See Brydges*, 18 F.3d at 652–53.

11 The Court further finds that Defendants’ moving papers are sufficient to support
12 summary judgment as those papers demonstrate the absence of genuine issues of material
13 fact. *See Henry*, 983 F.2d at 950. In his Amended Complaint, Mr. Pruitt claims that he was
14 discriminated against in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”), the
15 Arizona Employment Protection Act (“AEPA”), and the Occupational Safety and Health Act
16 (“OSHA”). (*See* Dkt. # 1, Ex. 1.) Specifically, Mr. Pruitt alleges that Defendants
17 discriminated against him on the basis of an alleged disability when he was terminated from
18 his position at MIHS. (*Id.*) Mr. Pruitt also claims that he was discriminated against under the
19 ADA when Defendants transferred him to a new department and denied his request for a
20 reasonable accommodation. (*Id.*) Finally, Mr. Pruitt alleges that he was retaliated against for
21 informing the local Occupation, Safety and Health Office of unsafe working conditions at
22 MIHS. (*Id.*) Defendants, however, present undisputed evidence to refute Mr. Pruitt’s claims.
23 *See* Fed. R. Civ. Pro. 56(c) (providing that summary judgment is appropriate if the evidence,
24 viewed in the light most favorable to the nonmoving party, shows “that there is no genuine
25 issue as to any material fact and that the movant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law”).

26 First, Mr. Pruitt’s ADA claims fail as a matter of law. While Mr. Pruitt contends in
27 his Amended Complaint that he was discriminated against when MIHS terminated him, the
28 undisputed evidence provides that he is still employed by MIHS. (*See* Dkt. # 38 at ¶ 27.)

1 With respect to Mr. Pruitt's claim that MIHS discriminated against him by transferring him
2 to another department, the evidence provides that Mr. Pruitt explicitly consented to that
3 transfer. (*Id.* at ¶ 3.) Defendants also present evidence that they provided Mr. Pruitt a
4 reasonable accommodation under the ADA; when Mr. Pruitt informed MIHS that a disability
5 prevented him from performing work that involved certain chemicals, the undisputed record
6 provides that Defendants found a similar position for Mr. Pruitt that allowed him to work
7 without exposure to potentially dangerous chemicals. (*Id.* at ¶ 24, 27.)

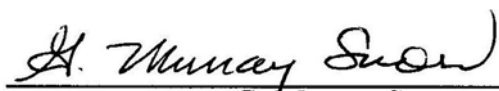
8 Next, Mr. Pruitt's AEPA claim fails. While Mr. Pruitt claims that he was terminated
9 in violation of Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 23-1501, the undisputed record provides that he was not
10 terminated, but that he continues to work for MIHS. (*See* Dkt. # 38 at ¶ 27.) Hence, there are
11 no genuine issues of fact with respect to Mr. Pruitt's AEPA claim.

12 Defendants also present undisputed evidence that Mr. Pruitt was not retaliated against
13 under OSHA for informing the local office of the Occupation, Safety, and Health
14 Administration of allegedly unsafe working conditions at MIHS. While Mr. Pruitt alleges in
15 his Amended Complaint that he was transferred to a different position because he told the
16 Administration that MIHS was using unsafe chemicals, the record provides that the transfer
17 took place six months before Mr. Pruitt complained to the Administration. (*Id.* at ¶ 28.) Since
18 the transfer took place several months *before* Mr. Pruitt engaged in a protected activity, the
19 transfer cannot serve as the basis for his retaliation claim.

20 **IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment
21 (Dkt. # 36) is **GRANTED**.

22 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** directing the Clerk of the Court to **TERMINATE** this
23 matter and enter judgment in Defendants' favor.

24 DATED this 15th day of April, 2010.

25 
26 _____
27 G. Murray Snow
28 United States District Judge